VZCZCXRO2577 PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH DE RUEHKO #0551 0630210 ZNR UUUUU ZZH P 030210Z MAR 08 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2175 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY RUYNAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6417 RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 8811 RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 4964 RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7022 RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0085 RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1983 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2150 RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8045 RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8625 RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR, EAP/J, EAP/P, PM; USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI; SECDEF FOR OASD/PA; CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE; PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: <u>OIIP KMDR KPAO JA</u>
SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - VISIT OF IRANIAN PRESIDENT TO IRAQ

- 11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Monday morning include a nationwide telephone poll that put support for the Fukuda cabinet at 33 percent and nonsupport at 51 percent.
- 12. "Iranian President Visits Iraq as Message to U.S." The conservative Sankei ran a Cairo-datelined report that stated (3/3): "Iranian President Ahmadinejad on Sunday became the first Iranian president to visit Iraq since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. He met with Iraqi President Talabani and Prime Minister Maliki to discuss such issues as enhanced economic relations and security cooperation.... The Iranian president's visit appears intended to demonstrate to the international community his nation's presence and the indispensable role it can play in terms of stability in Iraq.... The U.S. government has so far remained silent about the trip. The U.S. appears to have silently acquiesced to the visit despite its bitter feelings toward Iran, as Washington needs to continue direct talks with Tehran about public order.

SCHIEFFER